

REMARKS

Summary

The claims, the title, and the Abstract have been amended to overcome formal objections, and a substitute specification is being submitted, as requested by the Examiner. Therefore, the application is now in allowable form.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1-7 have been amended to improve their form and Claims 1 and 4 have also been amended to overcome a formal rejection. Claims 1 and 4 are independent.

Requested action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objections and rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Formal objections

The Examiner has required a title more descriptive of the claimed invention. In response, while not conceding the propriety of the objection, Applicants have amended the title as requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner objects to the Abstract because of its length and because of a misspelling of the phrase “wight-average”. In response, Applicants have amended the Abstract to address the points raised by the Examiner.

The Examiner has also required a machine-readable substitute specification. In response, Applicants are providing such a substitute specification.

Formal rejection

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for minor informalities in Claims 1 and 4. In response, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 4 to address the points raised by the Examiner. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims now even more clearly satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

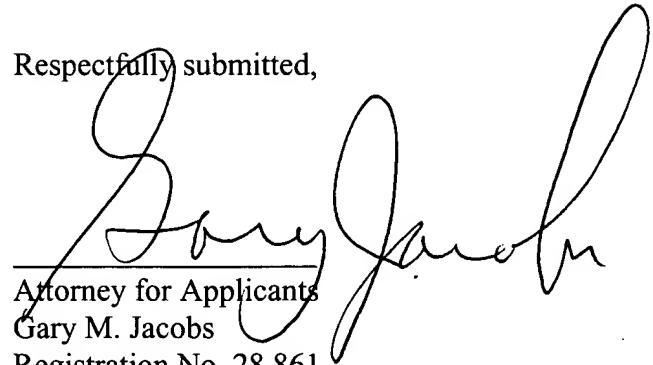
Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-7 would be allowed if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicants have so amended the claims, thereby rendering them allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the claims are now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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